the cases of undertrial prisoners. As per the reports received from the State Governments/High Courts upto March, 2009, 25,10,211 cases have been disposed of by the Fast Track Courts.

(c) and (d) Fast Track Courts are set-up by the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts depending upon the need. Respective High Court decide the types of cases to be transferred to Fast Track Courts.

Tribunals for cheque bounce cases

1698.SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, after insertion of sections 138 to 147 in the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1981 pertaining to dishonor of cheques the court rooms are flooded with cases in the lower courts all over the country, which were already over-burdened, resulting in delay in justice, as a whole;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to establish a separate tribunal to handle such cases, not only for speedy trial, but also for concerned and effective justice; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Most of the High Courts have informed that there are a large number of cases related to bouncing of cheques pending in the courts under their jurisdiction. There is no proposal at present to establish a separate Tribunal to handle such cases, the 18th Law Commission in its 213th Report has also not made any such recommendation.

Fast Track Courts for cheque bounce cases

1699.SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 18th Law Commission, headed by Justice A.R. Lakshmanan, has recommended for setting up of Fast Track courts, to dispose of over 38 lakh cases of cheque bouncing;

(b) whether the Commission has also suggested an amendment to Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, to compel the drawer of a bounced cheque to pay 50 per cent of the amount on receipt of summons; and

(c) if so, the action proposed by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The 18th Law Commission, headed by Justice A.R. Lakshmanan, has recommended for setting up of Fast Track Courts of Magistrates to dispose of the dishonoured cheque cases under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Transparent selection procedure for SC/HC judges

†1700. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending cases in different courts in the country, especially in High Courts and Supreme Court, as on date;

(b) whether the main reason for the pending cases is the shortage of judges in High Courts and Supreme Court;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is planning to make the selection procedure of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court simple, easy and transparent;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when the above plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) As per the information received from the Registry of the Supreme Court and the respective Registries of the High Courts, 50,659 matters were pending in the Supreme Court as on 1st June, 2009 and 3910858 cases were pending in the High Courts as on 31.12.2008.

(b) and (c) Vacancies of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court is one of the reasons for pendency in these courts. As on 10th July, 2009, against an approved strength of 886 Judges in the High Courts, 237 were vacant and there were 7 vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court against an approved strength of 31 Judges.

(d) to (f) The Government is preparing a road map for judicial reforms in the country for which consultations have already begun. A decision in the matter will be taken on completion of the consultation process.

Reforms in judiciary

1701. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to review present system of appointment of Judges and action against corrupt Judges;

(b) if so, the main reforms which are being considered in the judiciary;

(c) whether any constitutional amendment would be required for this;

(d) whether Government has also considered the views of Chief Justice of India (CJI) while making reforms in judiciary; and

(e) Whether CJI has also agreed that all Judges shall declare their assets provided they are given legal cover?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.